WASHINGTON CITY.

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 10, 1868.

de any agents or

OFFICIAL.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT, By and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

John O. Henning, at Hudson, Wisconsin. Wm. E. Keefer, at Springfield, Illinois. Jesse Braden, at Chariton, Iowa, vice Jam

Geo. L. Curry, Oregon City, O. T., vice R. Wilcox, re

A. G. Herndon, at Springfield, Illinois. Oscar A. Stevens, at Mackinac, Michigan. Daniel Woodson, at Kickapoo, Kansas 7

REPORT OF JUDGE HOPKINS.

We publish the report which was submitted the House on Tuesday by Judge Hopkins, and concurred in by Mr. Florence, from the committee on the Willett's Point investigation. It will be found lucid, able, conclusive and interesting. The subjectmatter of the report is not of sufficient importance indeed, to be worthy of the ability of the paper; but we publish it because of the extraordinary and malicious endeavors that have been made by some of the newspapers of New York to foreclos public opinion on the subject of this investigation.

The high character of Judge Hopkins will be a sufficient guarantee of the candor of his report; and the elevated standing which himself, Mr. Florence, and Mesars. Wood and Hall, their republican colleagues on this committee, all occupy in the House, will give to their honorable acquittal of bath the Secretary of War and Mr. Collector Schell from the imput cast upon their conduct, conclusive authority in the

We have no remark to make upon the subjects discussed in this report. The document is itself a sufficient discussion of them; but, as this investigation has been conducted with the most scandalous disregard of all the regularities and decencies which are usually observed in official inquisitions of the sort, we embrace the occasion to express our hearty neurrence in the eloquent paragraphs with which Judge Hopkins concludes his paper.

We are really at a loss to know on what ground of principle or precedent these congressional inquisi-tions into character are made. That Congress has power to inquire into the official conduct of the agents of government and to censure or to commend is clear; but we cannot conceive by what precede or prerogative it is that all the common-law rules which govern judicial inquiries are disregarded by these congressional committees, or how it is that the license of the Star Chamber and the arbitrary truculence of the Inquisition are revived in our land of

These inquisitions are taken ex parte from beginning to end, in secret, and in a corner. Men are accused by and before them without their knowledge and their characters, more precious than their lives, are assailed in secret recesses of the Capitol by a system of Thuggism more ruthless than that of the assins of India. Not only are the principles of on law but even those of common justice are disregarded; the accuser is not affronted with the accused: the absent are assailed unheard, and unconscious of impeachment; no opportunity for cros-examination is allowed; no appearance of the sailed is permitted, either in person or by counsel; no specifications of distinct charges are required;

of the legislature are designed for the protection of citizens, and should not be allowed to be and impracticable to be for a moment contemple abused to assaults upon their character. Commit the character of a public officer for whole months at a gration of free persons from the coast of Guines is too time, to the tender handling of all who may choose to violent and preposterous to be insisted upon by the go before a select committee to accuse them, in their proverbial candor and intelligence of the South. beence, and Congress can do little after that to repair the wrong that has been inflicted. Commit tration has pronounced so boldly and promptly against a virgin to the brutalities of the brothel for this subterfuge of "free" Guinea-negro emigration. to suppose that chasts linen and bright silks and from Congo, Loango, and Angola. She is not so sordid, sparkling jewelry can repair the brutal wrong that

SECRETARY COBB'S LETTER ON AFRICAN EMI-

The recent very able and conclusive letter of Sec retary Cobb, on the subject of importing African grante into the Southern States, has attracted some animadversion from a small portion of the Southern press. From the brief commentary upon it which we copy from the Charleston Mercury, the reader will be able to gather the line of objection which these papers urge against it. We mean no dis paragement to the known ability of the Mercury when we say that its objection to the argument of Governor Cobb is a very weak and untenable one. It certainly does not meet the reasoning of the Secretary; and we are at some loss to know how that reasoning can be met at all, and upon what grounds any serious argument against its conclusions, can be based. It was the remark of Dr. Johnson that the wrong side of a question was the only one which adaitted of the display of ability and ingenuity; as false ositions tax the genius to sustain them, while true ones are generally self-evident, leaving little room or necessity for argumentation. We have yet to see, however, any display of ingenuity or ability in the advocacy of the proposed African emigration scheme, either as consistent with the laws of the United States, or demanded by the interests of Southrn agriculture or industry.

There can be no escape from the language of the law of 1807. The law prohibits, after 1808, the importation of negroes from any quarter of the world, whether to be held as slaves, or "to service or labor" as ap prentices. It was the clear intendment of the law of Congress to prohibit the importation of colored persons bound to do labor or service either for life or for any shorter period; and no candid debater will contend that the object of importing negro emigrants is anything else but to import negroes bound to do labor or service for some period longer or shorter. The only escape from this clear intendment of the act of 1807 would be by an attack upon its constitu tionality; though that course would relieve the action of Secretary Cobb from all objection, as his duty is to administer the law as it is written, and not to assume the prerogative of the judiciary by a nullifying interpretation of it.

An assault upon the constitutionality of the act of 1807, however, would be futile; for the law is in strict conformity in its language and scope to the precise provision of the constitution on the subject. The law could only be assailed as too general and comprehensive in the description of persons whose importation into the country it prohibits; not merely African negroes, not merely negroes being prohibited, but "mulattoes" and "persons of [any] color" and nativity provided only they be slaves or ound to "service or labor," from whatever parts of the earth they may be brought. Yet, comprehensive as its language is, it is not so comprehensive as the clause of the constitution on which it is founded. That clause uses the general and compreensive term "persons" without limitation, restricon, or qualification :

"The migration and transportation of such reasons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to ad-mit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year 1808, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person."

This is the only limitation imposed by the constitution on the general power which that instrument confers upon Congress over our foreign commerc and intercourse, importations and exportations, so nor is the evidence confined to any specific charges; far as persons are concerned; and in the limitation, but the examiner is allowed to fish at large for accu- long ago expired, no reference is made to color or

We are glad that a southern member of the adminis nthe at a time, and who so coarse and stolid as The South wants no fresh cargoes of gibbering negroes nor so addicted to gain and money-getting, as to be willing to import new swarms of wild savages to infeat her society and derange her whole industrial system. But if she ever should be willing to reopen an importation which she resisted so early in her history, and against which she so long protested in vain, she will at least do so by direct and open us, and will disdain to resort to subterfuge and ception. Were it proposed by any foreign power land upon her shores indefinite numbers of African to land upon her shores in negroes upon condition that they should be respected as freemen, she would repel the proffer with just innation and at every hazard. If she could ever admit these creatures into her borders at all, it would only be as laborers subject to compulsory service and she would scorn to compromise her character before the world by attempting the trick upon the public sentiment of pretending that the black savages were to be regarded as freemen.

ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH SPECULATION.

with reference to the late act of the Parliament of Great Britain. It seems that these developments have been formally laid before Congress, and that the Judiciary Committee of the Senate has been investigating the condition of things in the premises On yesterday, the Committee made a report to the nate, accompanied by various documents, explaining the reasons which prevent the United States government from entering into any contract with the Atlantic Telegraph Company, giving to that com pany the aid of the government mentioned in the act of the last Congress. It seems that the company has acted in direct violation of the law of Congress in conformity to which the government loaned to the company the ship Niagara to assist in laying the telegraph cable. Under these circumstances, the

worthy of immediate consideration. If the company has violated the conditions of the act of Congress, so that the contract contemplated by that law cannot be executed upon the part of the Inited States government, the ship Nisgara can lot be permitted to remain in the employment of the ompany, and the vessel ought to be ordered into the government service immediately. The conditions of the loan of the ship, and the payment of the 870,000 per year for twenty-five years, are the same. If the money cannot be paid to the company, the ships, for the same reason, cannot be loaned.

question as to the propriety of allowing that ship to

emain longer in the service of that company is

The Judiciary Committee reported to the Senate

"No contract has been concluded" with the Atlantic Telegraph Company, and that "the act of Parliament Incorporating the Atlantic Telegraph Company seems, in some of its provisions, to render any contract with that company inadmissible within the intent of Congress, as evidenced in the act authorising a contract. The act of Parliament certainly imbodies a controlling power for Great Britain over the company incompatible with the provisions of the act of Congress."

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

Arrival of the Kangaroo Later from Europe. Naw York, June 9.—The steamer Kangaroo, with iverpool dates to the 26th ult., has arrived. Later news from India had been received, but it is not

ject of the principalities.

The Arabia's advices arrived in Liverpool on Sunday

orning, the 22d ult.
The telegraphic fleet would sail on the 29th on an ex-erimental trip.
The Dnited States ship Cruiser, loaded with tea, was The United States and to the cost off Prida shoals. The crew were saved.

Lord Elgin and his colleagues were, at the last advices rom China, about to leave Shanghai for Pecking, whith-

Cincaso, June 9.—A propeller, supposed to be the ckey, exploded her boller yesterday off Point au Sable. e crew and passengers, numbering 30, were all lost extense. We have no particulars.

New ORLEANS, June 8.—The city is quiet. The mayor has stopped all further arrests, and discharged all those who had been arrested. Resumption of Specie Payments. CHARLESTON, June 9.—The banks of this city as famburg are to resume specie payment forthwith.

From New Orleans.

Naw Yoak, June 9.—Cotton closed with a declining tendency, and quotations were nominal—sales of 500 bales; Upland middling, 11½ cents. Flour is heavy—sales of 1,300 barrels; State, \$5 85 a \$5 90; Ohio, \$4 45 a \$4 55; Southern, \$4 45 a \$4 70. Wheat is heavy—sales 40,000 bushels; Western white, \$1 05 a \$1 10. Corn is heavy—sales 28,000 bushels; mixed, 60 a 77 cts. Pork is dull. Lard is quiet at 11½ a 11½ cents. Whiskey closed firm at 21½ cents. Sugar is firm—Muscovado, 3 a 6½ cents. Coffee is dull and nominal. Naval Stores are quiet. Rice is steady.

Battragons June 9.—Flour is dull and generally un-

BALTIMORE, June 9.—Flour is dull and generally unchanged.—Howard street, \$4 37½; Ohio sold at the same figure; City Mills, \$4. Wheat is dull—good to prime white, 95 conts a \$1 20; good to prime reds, 90 cents a \$1. Corn is steady—white, at 66 a 68 cents; yellow at 68 a 71 cents. Provisions are dull—bulk pork at 6 a 8 cents; mess pork, \$17 75. Whiskey is dull at 20½ a 21½ cents. Coffee is dull—Rio, 10 a 11 cents.

IMPORTATION OF AFRICAN EMIGRANTS.

PPPP PPOW THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, May 22, 1858. TREASURY DEPARTMENT, May 22, 1858.

SIR: It appears from your letter of 20th April, 1858, that application has been made to you by Messre. E. Lafitte & Co., merchants of Charleston, South Carolina, "to clear the American ship Richard Cobden, W. F. Black master, burden 750 31.95 tons, for the coast of Africa, for the purpose of taking on board African emigrants, in accordance with the U. S. passenger laws, and returning with the same to a port in the United States."

You sak the opinion of the Department upon the propriety of your granting or refusing the application.

The question is an important one, and I have delayed an answey to your letter until I could give the subject a proper examination.

an answe, to your letter until I could give the subject a proper examination.

The form in which this application is presented involves the question in some erabarrassment. The object of the applicants must be eith, r to import Africans, to be disposed of as slaves, or to be bound to labor or service, or clse to bring them into the country like other emigrants, to be entitled on their arrival to all the rights and privileges of freemen. In either of the two first-named contingencies, the object would be so clearly and manifestly against the laws of the United States as to leave no room for doubt or hesitation. I deem it proper, however, to call your attention to the provisions of those laws, as they indicate very clearly the general policy of the government on the subject of African importation.

of 3d March, 1819, (3.532) and 15th May, 1820, (3.600) show not only the promptness with which the power was exercised by Congress of prohibiting this trade to the United States, but they also bear evidence of the stern purpose of enforcing their provisions by severe penalties and large expenditures. The legislation of the slaveholding States prior to 1808 axhibits the fact that the first steps taken for its suppression were inaugurated by them. There is no subject upon which the statute books of our country afford more conclusive evidence than the general opposition everywhere felt to the continuance of the African slave trade.

opposition everywhere left to the continuance of the African slave trade.

By reference to the acts of 1794 and 1800 against the slave trade generally, it will be seen that their operation was confined to eleves eo nomine. The first section of the act of 1794 provides, "That no citizen or citizens of the United States, or foreigner, or any other person coming into or residing within the same, shall, for himself or any other person whatsoever, either as master, factor or owner, build, fit, equip, load, or otherwise prepare any ship or vessel, within any port or place of the said United States, nor shall cause any ship or vessel to sail from any port or place within the same, for the purpose of carrying on any trade or traffic in slaves to any foreign country; or for the purpose of procuring, from any foreign king-

and general contained to contained the contraction in an electron to the contraction in an electron to the contraction in a life field varies of financial contraction in a life field varies of field varies of financial contraction in a life field varies of field varies

Messra. Lafitte & Co. contemplates the introduction of negroes into the United States from Africa, either in the character of alevas or as apprentices bound to service or labor, it is clearly in violation of both the letter and spirit of the law, and cannot be granted.

The form of the application made by Messra. Lafitte & Co. would seem to contemplate the introduction into the United States of negroes from Africa, entitled, on their arrival, te all the rights and privileges of freemen. The proposition, upon its face, is so absurd that it is hardly worthy of serious refutation. Messra. Lafitte & Co. ask us to believe that their vessel, fitted out in the port of Charleston, S. C., is going upon a voyage to Africa, to bring to some port in the United States a cargo of free negroes. The port to which the vessel expects to return is not indicated. It cannot be the one from which it sails, nor any other port in the State of South Carolina, as the introduction of free negroes into that State is wisely prohibited by stringent laws and heavy penalties. It cannot be the port of any other slaveholding State, as similar laws in each of those States alike forbid it. The reason for such laws is so manifest, that I do not feel called upon either to produce the evidence of their existence, or to justify the policy which led to their adoption. It is sufficient to know that the public mind of that section of the Union is not more cordially agreed upon any one subject than upon the propriety and necessity of gro-hibiting, as far as possible, an increase of the free negro population; and hence the laws to which I refer, pro-hibiting their importation from any place.

Can it be that Messrs. Lafitte & Co. propose to return

population; and hence the laws to which I refer, prohibiting their importation from any place.

Can it be that Mesers Lafitte & Co. propose to return with their cargo of free negroes, to a port in some of the non-slaveholding States? I am not aware of a single State where these new comers would receive a tolerant, much less a cordial, welcome; whilst, by stringent laws and constitutional provisions, some of them have provided for their unconditional exclusion.

Looking beyond the legislation which has been had on the subject by the general government, and both the slaveholding and the non-slaveholding States, I may be permitted to refer, in this connection, to the various, repeated and carnest efforts which have been made in every section of the Union, to provide for the removal from our midst, of this most unfortunate class. However variant the motives which have induced these efforts with different excitons of the country, they all exhibit an earnest desire to diminish rather than increase the free negro population. This public opinion, thus manifested in every form, is familiar to every one, and it would be doing great injustice to the intelligence of Mesers. Lafitte & Co. to suppose that they alone were ignorant of it. Where, then, do they propose to land their cargo of free negroes? What is the motive which induces the enterprise? It cannot be the profits of the voyage? There are no African emigrants seeking a passage to this country; and if there were, they have no means of remunerating Mesers. Lafitte & Co. for bringing them. The motive cannot be mere philanthropy, for it would confer no benefit upon these negroes to bring them to our shores, where, if permitted to land at all, it would only be to occupy our pest-hose, hospitals, and prisons. To believe, under the circumstances, that there is a bom fide purpose, on the part of Mesers. Lafitte & Co., to bring African emigrants to this country to enjoy the rights and privileges of freemen, would require an amount of credulity that would justly subject the

Ordinarily, it would be an unsaic rule for a public officer to act upon the suspicion of a purpose on the part of
another to violate the laws of the country, but in this
case it is put so clearly beyond the reach of doubt, that
I think that you not only can, but that you are in duty
bound to act upon the presumption that it is the intention of Messrs. Lafitte & Co. to evade the laws of the
United States, and you should accordingly refuse their
vessel the clearance asked for.

I am, very respectfully,
HOWELL COBB.

HOWELL COBB. Secretary of the Treasury. WM. F. Collector, Esq., Collector of the Customs, Charleston, S. C.

issues now agitating the country, he deemed it his day as a subordinate officer of government, to refer the ma-ter to the authorities at Washington, for their consider, tion and decision; and that he would refuse the clearant

THE NEW ORLEANS VIGILANCE COMMITTEE

By last evening's southern mail we received New Or leans papers of Thursday morning, the 3d instant. The Delta is the only one which mentions the cristence of the committee at all. The following is the whole of its

paragraph:

"Like a flash of lightning and burst of thunder after the preliminary hush that ushers in a tropical storm was the cosp of état of the vigilance committee last night.

"Rumors were current that such a body had been or ganised, but it had evidenced its existence by no visible action. It now appears that it does exist in strong force, numbering, it is said, about five hundred members.

"Last night a detachment of about two hundred, fully armed and equipped with Minnie muskets and all necessary side arms, marched down, and with quiet determination and good order took possession of the State Arsenal, near Jackson Square. It was about 12 o'clock. They also possessed themselves of the lock-up of the Second district, telling the officers that they would be responsible for the prisoners. They soon had the place completely guarded with pickets and outposts, and artillery planted so as to command all approaches.

"We have no time for comment. The vigilance committee are acting for the welfare of the city and its citizens. All good citizens are expected to stand by them until the city is thoroughly purged and redeemed."

By reference to a telegraphic despatch in our columns

By reference to a telegraphic despatch in our col this morning, it will be seen that the organization of

committee, thus suddenly brought into existence, has been abandoned, and that all proceedings against the participants therein have been wisely abandoned.

(Frem the Philadelphia Ledger.

A work has lately appeared in London, written by a Mr. Meadows, for many years a British interpreter in China, which undertakes to put the Chinese in a more favorable light before the European and American world than they have been heretofore presented in. Mr. Meadows protests especially against the idea, promulgated by the Jesuit missionary Hue, that the Chinese, beyond all other nations, are material, sensual, money-making and grose. He pointedly remarks that, if the people of France, Great Britain, or America, were to be judged by the mammon-worshipping inhabitants of Paris, London, and New York, it would be quite as fair a verillet as that pronounced by Mr. Hue, who has formed his opinions of the Chinese from the selfish denisens of the great cities. He adds, with great truth, that the majority of every nation, even the most Christian, have a lower scale of merality than the intellectual and spiritual minority, who are continually aspiring after a loftler life.

Mr. Meadows further asserts that the habits and opinions of the Chinese have suffered injustice from the ignorance of translators, who have misunderstood terms, giving them usually a baser and grosser meaning than truth warrants. He cites the antiquity of the social and political fabric of Chine as a proof that the character and condition of the people have been misrepresented; for no empire, he properly remarks, could last so long, unless it was founded in substantial justice, or unless its development was healthy. We explain the deallac of Rome by its corruption. We attribute the prosperity of Christian nations to the virtue of the people. The Chinese, Mr. Meadows contends, have a right to the benefits of asmilar mode of argument. Thousands of years, it is well known, have seen no revolutions in China. There have been overthrows of dynasty, rebellions without number, but no radical changes in the political or social fabric. Is not this, instead of being a proof of stagnation and death, as it is popularly considered,

familiar, the people are less civilized, more brutal, not so religious. It is from the beys and creeks on southern and southeastern coasts, which abound a mountains, that the pirates who infest the Chinese swarm forth. The Westminster Review, in an able are on China, corroborates the views of Mr. Meadows by timony drawn from various other sources. It is executely difficult, we all know, to understand a people less upon a long and familiar acquaintance with the and the opinions of Mr. Meadows are worth, theref more than those of finets and nine other travellers. more than those of finety and nine other travell have merely stopped a day or two at Canton, or away a summer at Macao.

INCREASE OF THE NAVY.

Mr. Bocock, Chairman of the Naval Committee in the House of Repraentatives, is exerting all his energies for securing the construction of the ten additional sloops of war which the Secretary of the Navy says are required by the necessities of the service. Twenty or more sloops, says the Secretary, are necessary to occupy the stations where men-of-war are needed, and afford proper facilities for the relief and repair of vessels.

We hope that Congress will not adjourn without passing the bill which Mr. Bocock asked leave to introduce on Thursday last, (see report of Congressional proceedings,) or some similar bill.—Richmond Examiner.

CHAMPFLEURY—Los Premiers Benux Jours.

Paris. 1858. 30 cents.

Tauma—Les Chevatix du Sahara. Paris. 1858. 30 cents.

Gorlan—Le Modicin du Pece, Paris. 1858. 30 cents.

Gorlan—Le Modicin du Pece, Paris. 1858. 30 cents.

Aubryot—La Femme de Vingt. cinq Ans. 1856. 30 cents.

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Soulic—La Femme de Vingt. cinq Ans. 1856. 30 cents.

Conscience—L'Orpheline. 1858. 30 cents.

Gorlan—La Bornier Sour Grise. 1858. 30 cents.

Gorlan—La Dernier Sour Grise. 1858. 30 cents.

Mery—Los Nuts Ruleienmes. 1858. 30 cents.

Carlen—Deux Cadavres. 1858. 30 cents.

Carlen—Deux Geurse Femmes. 1858. 30 cents.

Gorlan—Hatoire de 180 Femmes. 1858. 30 cents.

Gorlan—Hatoire de 180 Femmes. 1858. 30 cents.

Gorlan—Les Femmes Hometes. 1858. 30 cents.

Bernard—Le Perirait de la Marquise. 1858. 30 cents.

Bernard—Le Perirait de la Marquise. 1858. 30 cents.

Soulis—Les Quaire Femmes. 1858. 30 cents.

June 5

FRANCE TAYLOR & MAURY'S, 334 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Information, acquired from the best authority, with respect to the Institution of Slavery, by William Jagger. Price 10 cents.

What the Press Say.

*Information, acquired from the best authority, with respect to the Institution of Slavery. By William Jagger. This pamphlet is formally addressed to the people of Suffick county, where the author reside, but is calculated to cullghten the underestanding of multitudes all over the North. For this prepose its simple, supretending, and sentention style is the best possible. He gives a great and curious array of facts, optoices, and statistics, as the result of a long and inquiring journey and residence in nine of the slave States, where he conversed with skayes, manuters, and free negroes, as if he were one of them. Buccess to his pamphlet. Let it be circulated. — New Fork Dadig Ness.

A pamphlet explanatory of Johnson's System of Collecting Debts, by Heary Johnson. Price 25 cents.

A New Fratem of Commorcial Pennusuichip, by T. Krize White, president of the Pennsylvania Commercial Institute, at York, Pafrice 25 cents.

Beginaw Districts in the State of Michigan.

In PURSUANCE of the act of Congross, approved May 11, 1858, entitled "An act to enlarge the Betroit and Sagnaw land districts in Michigan," it is beredy declared and sade known, that all that portion of the present "Chebuygan Bestrict," which lies south of the line dividing townships 36 and 29 north, and enat of the line dividing ranges 2 and 3 west, will be attached to the "Saginaw Ilstrict" from and after the 1st day of July sext, and the lands within said limits be thereafter subject to entry at the office at East Sauraw ; and all that part of the present "Chebuygan District" lying north of the line dividing townships 28 and 29 north, and east of the line dividing ranges 2 and 5 west, including the Island of Mackinac, will be attached to the "Desroit District," from and after the same dato, and will be subject to sale and outry at the land office at Intraor.

Given under my hand at the city of Washington, this 7th day of June, A. D. 1858.

THOS. A. HENDRICKS,
June 8—86w

Commissioner of the General Land Office.